

**MIDWESTERN NCVR VICARS MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019**

The meeting convened at 10:44 am; some members voiced issues with availability of technology in their offices.

Present: Marilyn Kerber, SNDdeN, chair (Cincinnati); Ellen Dunn, OP, (Wheeling / Charleston); Joan McGlinchy, MSC, (Chicago); Maria Lin Pacold, RSM, (Toledo); Carolyn Puccio, CSJ, (Minneapolis / St. Paul); Rita Wenzlick, OP, (Lansing)

Welcome to Maria Lin: Maria began her ministry in Toledo on July 1. She is part-time consecrated life and the remainder of the time as coordinator of clergy, vocations and missions.

Good news:

Rita: the annual event last year was well received ... we met at the Adrian Dominican Motherhouse which allowed for many of the retired / senior sisters to join us. I gave a brief presentation on the Rule of Saint Augustine as seen today with the encouragement that all present reflect on their community rule in the same way. Bishop Boyea celebrated Mass and we engaged in an exercise of naming the gifts that we bring to ministry. In the fall of 2019, we have contracted with Caroljean Willie, SC, to be with us. Her topics: Spirituality in a Global Age and Community in a Global Age.

Maria Lin: Toledo will celebrate consecrated life with men and women on February 2. The day will include the presence of Bishop Thomas, Committee gatherings (video of these groups on the diocesan website) and lunch. The Little Sisters of the Poor are leaving the Diocese of Toledo.

Carolyn: hosted celebration of consecrated life on January 27. Event was affected by weather, however a wonderful gathering. Conversation was held about consecrated life and its many expressions. Carolyn has been in her position for 5 years and now has a representative group with which to work. Fourteen members are known as the Interim Commission on Consecrated Life and the group is mixed, men and women.

Marilyn: holds an event for women interested in religious life ... sometimes called "Martha Events" or "Are You Called". Early on in this initiative, the women (about 10) who attended were very young. The event was rethought with younger (young adult) women gathered to help revision the event which would attract young adult women, not 7th and 8th grade girls. What was learned? Young women find more appeal in truth, beauty, and goodness. Archbishop is too intimidating, so no invitation was extended to him. The name was changed to "Explore Your Call" and the event is now dinner with folks in Consecrated Life. Pray with us that this event will attract young adult women. Learning: bring groups together and share thoughts.

Ellen: is looking forward to prayerful research in parishes for the selection of a new bishop. Each parish will offer Mass on the weekend of February 2-3 for this process. This event is being attached to the end of Catholic Schools' week.

2019 Assembly:

- frustration was expressed that the conference schedule was not detailed enough for participants
- event title: Missionary Disciples ... Intercultural Hearts, Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, will speak to this topic (past president of LCWR, spoke at November Bishops' meeting)
- Monday, 10:30 am, at the request of the Midwestern Vicars, a panel consisting of LCWR, CMSWR, CICL-SAL members will present on the abuse in the church. Speakers include Carol Zinn, Christine Crimin and Teresa Maya
- Monday, 1:30 pm, three authors (Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; Desire Findlay, CSSF; Tracey Kemme, SC) of *IN OUR OWN WORDS* will present
- Monday, 3:30 pm, Hank Lemoncelli, OMI, will speak on the three documents: Contemplative Communities, Consecrated Virgins Living in the World and Mutual Relations
- Tuesday, 9:00 am, Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, will speak about Eldering into the Fullness of Life
- Some conversation took place about the brevity of the agenda and perhaps members of the Midwest Region might make their comments known to the NCVR leadership.

Selection of Midwest Officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary): will take place at the March gathering (done in the odd years) in Chicago. Marilyn declined to continue as chair; Rita also declined to continue as secretary. Gratitude was voiced for the service of the past two years.

In 2020, the Midwest Region will be responsible for the Annual Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Wenzlick, OP, secretary